

**SERMON:** A Conversation About Suffering

June 16, 2019

**SERIES:** Conversations with Jesus

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Jamie

**THE GOAL:** The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS:** Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

**SCRIPTURE:** John 9:1-41.

**SERMON OUTLINE:** I. The pain of suffering II. The purpose of suffering III. The power to endure suffering

**REVIEW:** Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

**Observation:** as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

**Interpretation:** answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

**Application:** answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

**GO DEEPER:** Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. How do you tend to see suffering? Is it random? Is it the result of sin? How does John 9 help inform your view of suffering? How does it make you more compassionate toward those who are suffering?
2. How would you answer the question of why God allows suffering? Read John 9:3. How does Jesus answer this question?
3. How does the blind man in the story find eternal hope (v35)? How has having the hope of salvation helped you to endure suffering? How can you share hope with those around you that are suffering?

Prayer: Praise God for the eternal hope that he has purchased for us at the cross. Confess your lack of compassion toward those who are suffering. Ask for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with those who are suffering.